

# St. Peter's prepares students for high school and beyond

Since 1929 St. Peter's Catholic School, located at Meyer Boulevard and Holmes Road in Kansas City, has prepared area children for a morally responsible and educationally sound adulthood, said Principal Janet Spallo. St. Peter's is part of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

When Carnie Nulton and his wife, Maura, moved to Brookside, they sought out elementary school referrals. "We asked local high schools where their best students typically came from," Nulton said. "The answer was usually St. Peter's."

The Nultons' eight children have either graduated or are currently enrolled at St. Peter's. "Of the four who have graduated, they have

been totally prepared to succeed in a college preparatory high school," Nulton said. "The school has also reinforced the Catholic Christian values we strive to teach at home."

In May their son, who has Down syndrome, will graduate from eighth grade with his classmates, a dream that might never have been realized without the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education, a program the Nultons helped to create more than 12 years ago with other parents of children with special needs. The foundation provides funding for inclusive special education services, allowing children with special needs to attend their parish school with sib-

lings and neighbors.

"St. Peter's was really the first to embrace the program wholeheartedly and enthusiastically," Nulton said. It has since expanded to other diocesan schools.

A welcoming spirit abounds at St. Peter's, from the highly educated teachers in the classrooms to the many outside sports, scouting and extracurricular activities available, said Angie Meyer, assistant principal. The school also has an active PTA and School Families program, and it was the first in the area to offer a walking school bus program, she said.

"We felt such a sense of community when we were comparing St. Peter's to other schools," said Lori Archer, a

St. Peter's parent. "Diversity was another thing we were looking for, and St. Peter's had it." Lori and Michael Archer moved to Kansas City a year ago after Michael accepted the presidency at Applebee's International.

"We had a daughter who was going into eighth grade, which makes relocating exceptionally traumatic," she said. "Both our daughters have thrived at St. Peter's, and I even noticed our oldest place more interest in science than ever before."

Bob Jacobsen has taught in Catholic schools for 25 years, most of those as a seventh- and eighth-grade science teacher at St. Peter's. For 20 years, he has been instrumental in St. Peter's students

receiving numerous academic grand awards and special awards in the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair, Spallo said.

"I have seen many students leave and become very successful, whether they pursued a Ph.D. in molecular biology, medicine or politics or became a caring stay-at-home parent," Jacobsen said.

"Along with students enjoying the challenges and rigors that our academics offer, I see them trying to develop into viable young citizens who care about what is occurring in their school, neighborhood, city and beyond."

For more information or to schedule a school tour, call 816-523-4899 or visit [www.stpeterskc.org](http://www.stpeterskc.org). ■



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